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THE CONGRESSIONAL FRONT
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THE RUSSIAN BEAR - During consideration of the lend-lease bill in the House, an amendment was offered to exclude Soviet Russia as one of the Foreign governments to whom aid might be provided under the terms of the bill. That amendment was voted down. History throws some revealing light on this action. In November of 1939, when Congress in special session was debating the Neutrality Act and considering the President's proposal to lift the embargo on arms shipments to belligerent nations, Molotoff, the Soviet Premier made a speech in Moscow in which he stated that raising the arms embargo would create "justifiable misgivings." There was strong feeling against Russia because of her actions. The White House press secretary issued some tart and sarcastic comment on this effort to influence the vote on lifting the ban on arms. On November 3, 1939, Representative McCormack of Massachusetts, who is now the Majority leader called for action and for a recall of the American Ambassador. The President on the same day said that Molotoff was guilty of bad manner. That was about 15 months ago. Today, the House refused to exclude Russia from the list of nations who might be aided by arms and weapons provided by the American people. Truly, history is a fluid thing.

"NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF ANY OTHER LAW"- Perhaps the most important phrase in the entire text of the lend-lease bill is the first phrase of section 3 which states that "notwithstanding the provisions of any other law," the President may through his department heads manufacture and procure weapons and defense material for any foreign government whose defense is deemed vital to the United States. That phrase means precisely what it says. If any provision of existing law or of any law which Congress may hereafter enact stands in the way, it is superseded, or suspended in its effect. For instance the law of June 1940 provided that no weapon or munitions can be disposed of unless it is certified by the Army and Navy chiefs that it is not essential to our defense. That provision can now be set aside. The President need only consult with our defense chiefs but need not secure their certification that defense materials can be spared from our own supply. The Act of 1917 prohibits the outfitting of war vessels with intent to deliver them to belligerent nations. This act can be disregarded. If any labor legislation stands in the way of carrying out the lend-lease bill, it too can be disregarded insofar as it conflicts with the lend-lease authority. Truly, here is tremendous power.

SIC TRANSIT GLORIA - Back in 1933, Henry A. Wallace, then Secretary of Agriculture and now Vice-President lamented the smugness and complacency of youth. His lament did not fall on deaf ears. Viola Ilma, a young New Yorker who had studied youth movements in foreign countries accepted the implied challenge and called a youth convention in New York City. Her leadership however was short lived. Communist experts sensing the great possibilities of a youth movement, slyly filtered into the picture deposed Miss Ilma and thus the American Youth Congress became what Earl Browder calls a Communist "transmission belt." In 1939, the American Youth Congress held its convention in Washington where it received sympathetic attention from the First Lady and was addressed by the Attorney General and others. All that has now changed. The AYC gradually became more and more open in its espousal of the Soviet cause and even booed the President. As they returned to Washington in 1941 for their convention, they no longer found that sympathetic welcome accorded in other days and were forced to hold their convention in a hall known as Turners Arena where prize fights and wrestling matches are staged. On of the theme songs goes,

"They're sinking dough in guns
While the people live in slums."

THE JUDGMENT OF HISTORY - Never in the annals of American history was man so vilified and abused as Abraham Lincoln. The Abolitionists cursed him because he did not go far enough. The Conservatives cursed him because he went too far. Horace Greely, publisher, of the New York Tribune was attacking Lincoln with such fierce constancy that even the Cabinet suggested to Lincoln that he reply to these attacks. He seemed so alone and friendless. Yet was he tenacious and unafraid. His faith in his own course never departed and the judgment of history is one of love, reverence and devotion. Is proof needed that he is more deeply enshrined in the hearts of more Americans than any other man in the life of this Republic? Then let it be supplied by the guards who tabulate the number of visitors to the memorials in the nation's capitol. In 1940, more than 1,639,000 persons came with bared heads to gaze upon the seated martyr in the Lincoln memorial. This is 700,000 more than visited the monument to George Washington. Why? Search your heart for the answer.